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TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST
By
Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-7:15 P. M.
30 January 1958

Now getting back to our Radio Free Europe story and the case of Fletcher Bartholemew, who was put into the mental ward of the Army General Hospital in Munich, after he had made a report in triplicate suggesting some weaknesses in the Munich operation, including the suspicion that there were homosexuals in the organization. I have tried over the past two nights to give you the story of what happen on the Munich end of all this, as I said last night and the night before. Tonight, by way of tying up the loose ends, I want to give you a fill-in on what was happening meanwhile in the New York office of Radio Free Europe--the Free Europe Committee--in connection with the same case.

Remember it was Saturday afternoon, July 28th, when Fletcher Bartholemew was committed to the mental ward in the Munich hospital. As of Monday, July the 30th, a top clerical employee in the New York office, whom I have located and who has made a written statement for me, returned to her job from vacation and learned for the first time of the Fletcher Bartholemew incident. Her name is unimportant, but she will testify in full when this case is brought out before an appropriate investigating committee of the Congress.

Let me quote her report to me. And this is from a report, incidentally, which she made at the time, Monday, July 30th 1956. "I returned from three weeks vacation and learned immediately that Fletcher Bartholemew, a meteorologist with Free Europe press in Munich, was in serious difficulty. Briefly, because of immoral conditions in Free Europe press, Munich, he had resigned his job and was returning to his work with General Mills in Minneapolis. Before resigning, he gave a memorandum to a Mr. Page, who was supposed to be a friend of his at the American Embassy in Munich, in the hope that something would be done before scandal burst wide open. Page got in touch with the Free Europe Committee in Munich, which got in touch with the United States Army."

Let me interject here that the head of the Free Europe operation, Free Europe press, in which Fletcher Bartholemew had been an employee, was Samuel S. Walker, Jr.--that is the

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head in New York. A young man, then 29 years old, he had a deputy director under him, John G. Kirk, a year younger than Walker and son of President Eisenhower's friend, the president of Columbia University.

Now let's get back to this report. "Samuel Walker's secretary, who told me the above, added, 'Mr. Walker is trying to keep Mr. Sheppardson and Mr. Meyers--the then president of Free Europe Committee and the latter, the personnel director--from knowing anything about this.' I asked if he was being successful, she replied, 'Oh, yes.'

"When Kirk arrived at the office, he immediately had a phone conversation with a Dr. David Cam, of King's County Hospital, Brooklyn. It was the intention of the Free Europe press in Munich to fly Fletcher Bartholemew in an air force plane from Frankfurt, where he was in the hospital, to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, where an ambulance from the King's County Hospital would meet the plane and transport Bartholemew to the hospital. Several times that day I importuned Kirk with questions as to Fletcher Bartholemew's rights, the protection of his family--wife and three children--and I was brushed aside with the reply that they were being well protected.

"Tuesday, July the 31st, after a sleepless night, I went to Thomas E. Meyers office, the personnel director who was supposed to be kept in the dark. I asked him what he knew about the Fletcher Bartholemew case. He replied, 'Not much, we haven't been called into it.' I told him what I knew including the fact that they were trying to keep it away from him and President Sheppardson. He immediately called Sheppardson, who called Washington, which said to get Richard Queenley, the attorney for the Free Europe Committee, on the job at once.

"Wednesday, August 1st. This is the day when Bartholemew on the other side is being shipped out of Munich to Frankfurt to start his straight-jacket trip home to the United States. Meyers phoned Fletcher Bartholemew's father, age 80, in Minneapolis to fly to New York immediately, that his son was being flown from Munich, as a stretcher case, and would arrive Friday. The father collapsed. The mother, 65, said that she would come but did not have enough ready cash. The Free Europe Committee wired her money. That afternoon, when Kirk returned from Samuel Walker's office, he said, 'Everything was neatly arranged and now Sheppardson and Meyers have upset the works.'

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"Thursday, August the 2nd 1956, Meyers told me that I had been selected by Sheppardson and Meyers, over Sam Walker's strong opposition,to meet Fletcher Bartholemew's mother at Idlewild. I still knew nothing other than what I had told Meyers on Tuesday."

The following day, Friday, Mrs. Bartholemew,senior, arrived in the morning, and Fletcher Bartholemew arrived from Frankfurt late the same night. The mother went by bus to the hospital Saturday morning at Fort Dix, saw her son, and said to the nurse, "There is nothing the matter with my son. Why can't I take him with me?" The nurse replied that no one was on duty to sign the release papers.

A final note from the report which I have been reading, dated Saturday, August the 4th, the same day, "I left Mrs. Bartholemew,senior, at the hotel about 9 p. m. and phoned Mr. Sheppardson and Mr. Meyers. I said that I had seen, talked to, and sat beside Fletcher Bartholemew, and that if he was mentally unbalanced, I should be in ten straight jackets."

Now, in the course of further checking of this story for you, I contacted Major General Neuma Watson, retired, who was in command of the entire army installation in Munich at the time, including th hospital. I reached General Watson and find that at the time he had about a month more to serve. I reached him in Clear Water, Florida. I asked him how the army ever got mixed up in this strictly civilian case, anyway.

His reply was, "Well, I was invited into it. The consul general, Mr. Page, called me and said he was having a little trouble, would the army help him out? Naturally, I said we would. It was a request from one branch of the government to assist a branch."

I asked the army here in the Pentagon how the army got into it. They first sighted to me army regulation 40108, which, when reading, proved to be totally inapplicable. It actually excludes civilians with the single exception of civilian employees of the Defense Department. Later the army apologized to me for this citation, said it clearly does not apply, and that there was no justification. The fact is that if Bartholemew had requested hospitalization in Munich, there was no authority for him to have been hospitalized.

I also interviewed Lieutenant Colonel Ralph W. Clements, who was the head psychiatrist in the Munich Hospital, and he sighted to me as one of the symptoms of Mr. Bartholemew's case

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that Bartholemew owned a gun and that therefore he might become dangerous. I told him that I knew about the gun and that the reason that it was bought--Mrs. Bartholemew helping him in the purchase--was that while they were away on a week end, their house was broken into and vandalized. I informed him, also, that at the time of the purchase, Fletcher Bartholemew went to both the American and German authorities and did whatever was required in the way of registration and getting a permit. He said he was unaware of those details. I then told Colonel Clements--he is now in private practice in New York City--that a prominent general in Munich, at the time, also owned a gun as a result of a mere stone being thrown in the kitchen window. And the general said that he did not register his. I asked whether this suggested that maybe perhaps the general himself should be put away, too. And Dr. Clements said glibly, "Well, maybe he should be."

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